

Court Information Release



United States District Court
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“A Court at the Heart of America” Nominated for Chicago Emmy
Documentary Film Explores Impact of Illinois Federal Courts on Nation

“A Court at the Heart of America” has been nominated for a 2019-20 Chicago/Midwest Emmy. The one-hour documentary film commemorates the 200th anniversary of federal courts in Illinois. “A Court at the Heart of America” highlights the people, places, and cases that have shaped the court and the profound impact the court has had on the district and nation.

“A Court at the Heart of America’ stunningly captures our court’s storied history. We are delighted that the film has been recognized with an Emmy nomination,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

“A Court at the Heart of America” was nominated in the category of Outstanding Achievement for Documentary Programs-Historical. The film was produced by CourtMedia, based in Wheaton, Illinois, and commissioned by the Northern District of Illinois Court Historical Association.

Emmy winners will be announced in a virtual ceremony on November 20, 2020. The Emmy winners are awarded by the National Academy of Arts & Sciences, Chicago/Midwest Chapter.

“A Court at the Heart of America” aired on WTTW Channel 11 (PBS) and can be viewed [online](#). The court’s history is explored visually, as well, in a book published last year by CityFiles Press: *Chicago Rules: Federal Cases that Defined the City and the Nation*.

Illinois federal court is where a young Abraham Lincoln argued that trains - not steamships -

were America's future. Chicago is where Al Capone met his downfall, and the Mafia's "family secrets" were disclosed. "Days of Rage" played out in the Chicago Conspiracy trial - where Abbie Hoffman butted heads with Judge Julius Hoffman and Bobby Seale was bound and gagged. Illinois federal court is where thousands of individuals have taken the oath to become U.S. citizens; where everyday people pursue the ideals enshrined in the U.S. Constitution; and where dramas, big and small, play out every day.

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